

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, amended claims 2-7, 9, and 10, and added new claim 11. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-7 and 9-11 are currently pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sherrod (U.S. Patent No. 6,053,380). Claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled, rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

The Examiner also indicated allowable subject matter, objecting to claims 2-7, 9, and 10 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner indicated that "claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims because of the limitation that the air blow means intermittently blow air into the glove on a cycle between 3Hz and 6Hz." The examiner further indicated that claims 9 and 10 would also be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims because they require "a fixed claw member associated with the movable claw member for holding and opening the glove."

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 9, and 10 have been placed in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims from which they respectively depended and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner. Further, claims 9 and 10, as amended, require that

"said air blow means includes an air blow port provided on the movable claw." Sherrod does not disclose this limitation.

Newly added independent claim 11 requires, among other things, "at least one movable claw of said pair of movable claws includes an air blow port on a side thereof opposite to a side holding said mouth of the glove, for blowing air into said glove."

Sherrod does not disclose this limitation.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 9-11 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above. While claims 2-7, 9, and 10 have been further amended to put them in better form, claims 3-7 depend from claim 2 and, therefore, those claims should be allowable for at least the same reasons claim 2 is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of this application, the withdrawal of the outstanding claim rejection, and the allowance of claims 2-7 and 9-11.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation might advance prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicant's undersigned representative at 571-203-2717.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action contains numerous assertions concerning the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether those assertions are addressed specifically herein, Applicant respectfully declines to automatically subscribe to them.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any required fees to our Deposit Account No. 6-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 15, 2005

By: 

Jeremy T. Thissell
Reg. No. 56,065